

DFS QUARTERLY

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The Fire Officer Training Group

Fire Officer 1 Skills Development: We are completing class # 029 during which we tried a presentation format of one weekend day and two weekday evenings. The supervisory skills portion of the class was conducted at the Medway Fire Department, and the tactical skills portion was presented at the Westford Fire Department. The final 18 hours will be conducted at the DFS Stow campus. Class # 030 will start June 5 at Fitchburg's new headquarter's station. This will be the standard five-day a week presentation with 12 days at Fitchburg and the final three days at MFA Stow.

This summer we will implement the change over to the 3rd edition of *IFSTA Fire Department Company Officer*. We have been waiting for the

complete training program to be released so we could update our instructor's guide. As part of this change, we review the entire 15-day, 90-hour program to be sure we are delivering what the customer needs and wants. We would encourage anyone with a comment or suggestion to send it us at Kevin.Robinson@state.ma.us or to the Fire Officer Training Group P. O. Box 1025 Stow MA 01775.

Fire Officer: Advanced Leadership Training: This training is directed at the second level officer who has duties in addition to running a shift. It is designed to enhance the student's ability to do medium and long-range planning. This offering will be at Natick on June 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20.

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From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

Stephen D. Coan

In the aftermath of the Worcester tragedy, we are looking to create a federal-state partnership to assist municipalities with funding for basic fire service needs, with a clear emphasis on firefighter safety.

The state legislature is currently deliberating on a group of bills that provide grant funds for the purchase of firefighter safety equipment. There are several different versions under consideration including a \$10 million proposal that contains no community matching which has cleared the House. This particular bill creates a board made up of the president of the Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, the president of the Professional Fire Fighters' of Massachusetts, the State Fire Marshal, and the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Safety, to advise the Secretary of Public Safety on guidelines for this grant program.

I had the pleasure of joining in a contingent of Massachusetts fire chiefs and firefighters that included the Worcester Fire Chief Dennis Budd and representatives of his department, at a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C. to advocate on behalf of Rep. William Pascrell's (D-NJ) FIRE Act. This important piece of federal legislation would allocate \$5 billion over the next five years to provide similar support to the fire service as Con-

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Blessing of the Fleet



On May 4, the Feast of St. Florian, Patron Saint of Firefighters, Father Conole from St. Michael's Parish in Hudson performed a blessing of the DFS apparatus and staff.

From the Fire Marshal

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gress already does to the law enforcement community.

Another outgrowth of the Worcester tragedy is proposed legislation and regulatory changes to allow the public safety community to better manage abandoned buildings. I convened a task force that worked diligently to examine the issues surrounding abandoned buildings and to make recommendations to the Administration for these statutory and regulatory changes. In 1998, we saw one firefighter injury for every 22 structure fires, but one firefighter injury for every 6 vacant building fires. The risk of injury to a firefighter fighting a vacant building is more than three times higher than structure fires in general. ♦

State Fire Marshal Receives Grant for Juvenile Firesetting

By Jennifer Mieth, Public Education Manager

Since becoming State Fire Marshal in 1995, Steve Coan has been struck by just how many fires, and how many serious fires in Massachusetts are started by children using fire. Every morning he receives a report of the fires overnight, and day after day, so many of those fires are due to juvenile firesetting. Since the inception of the Department of Fire Services, he has attempted to secure resources to address this issue and this January, the Department of Fire Services received a \$250,000 federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. This grant is a result of the requests of many of the Fire Chiefs across the Commonwealth for an increased response to the serious public safety problem of juvenile firesetting. It will support the ongoing efforts of the Statewide Coalition of Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs by creating a statewide focus on the issue of juvenile firesetting in the Department of Fire Services, and

fostering initiatives in education and training.

Raise Awareness

Some of the goals of this grant are to support the needs of prosecutors to more effectively intervene with juvenile firesetters by creating more effective diversion programs, organizing a roundtable of affected agency heads to review and make recommendations on several issues, as well as increasing the number of fire instructors by educating firefighters as fire instructors for regional fire schools.

Roundtable to Create Statewide Focus

A Roundtable is being established of agency heads who already have a direct investment in these children and will hold its first meeting on April 26, 2000. State Fire Marshal Coan has persuaded Commissioner Jeffrey Locke, Department of Social Services, and Secretary Jane Perlov, Executive Office of Public Safety, to co-chair this Roundtable. They have invited agency heads from the District Attorneys' Association, the Juvenile Courts, the Department of Fire Services, the Department of Youth Services, the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Education, the Attorney General's Office, the Statewide Coalition on Juvenile Firesetting Intervention Programs, and the Dean of the Boston University's School of Social Work to participate. The Roundtable will discuss and formulate partnership solutions that will be presented in the form of formal recommendations in September. The objectives of the Roundtable are: 1) to formulate a strategic plan to insure that every community in the state has access to a juvenile firesetting intervention program; 2) to create a workgroup to review existing applicable statutes and recommend changes; and 3) to create a work group to develop training

recommendations for social workers and implement them in the six schools of social work in Massachusetts.

Increase Number of Fire School Instructors, Stipends for Auditing

The Roundtable is just one of the initiatives of the project. A major thrust is to address the prosecutors' need for increased services for juvenile firesetting intervention by expanding the number of communities participating in the educational intervention component of regional intervention programs. In order to accomplish this goal of increasing fire school instructors for regional fire schools, the State Fire Marshal is asking fire chiefs to make a commitment to the educational component of intervention programs. The participation and commitment requires the fire chief to select firefighters to undergo seven (7) days of training from the Statewide Coalition of Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs, audit a ten (10) week fire school, and make a commitment to participate in one of the regional fire schools for one (1) year after the training is completed. The Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Project Grant will provide a stipend compensation for auditing the regional fire school.

By creating more fire schools where children with firesetting problems can receive specialized fire education, we can share the burden with the Statewide Coalition of Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs, which currently includes the majority of the programs in the state. In many cases each regional fire school is run by one or two trained instructors. The ranks of these fire educators must be increased to relieve the burden on these few hard working individuals.

A memorandum was sent the first week of April to every fire chief officially launching the project. When a fire chief returns the *Application to Participate*, a *Memorandum of Understanding*

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FIRE INVESTIGATION NEWS

Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit

For over fifty years, specially trained State Police Officers have been assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. In recent years the Unit has made significant changes to its structure, protocol, and investigative resources. Currently, the clearance rate for cases in the unit is the highest it has ever been.

The unit now has a complement of 37 full-time members divided into four regional Fire Investigative Teams, and three regional Hazardous Device teams (Bomb Squads).

The Massachusetts State Fire Marshal is mandated to investigate the cause and circumstances of fires and explosions where local authorities are unable to determine the cause, where a violation of law exists, or where the fire or explosion is classified as suspicious or incendiary in nature (MGL c148, s2 & 3.) The State Fire Marshal also investigates all fatal or serious injury fires, all fires which are hate crime related or involve houses of worship, fires which displace several families, commercial fires which have a large impact on employment in the community, fires which cause substantial damage to state property or public records, and importantly, all fires involving explosive devices.

To assist him in his mandated responsibilities, State Fire Marshal Coan has assembled a team of State Police investigators and technicians whose training, experience and accomplishments have earned them recognition as one of the finest fire investigative units in the country. The Marshal has fostered a team approach whereby investigations are conducted in cooperation with the local fire and police departments, with support from local building departments and code compliance and engineering staff in the Technical Services Unit in the Office of the State Fire Marshal. On large scale investigations and where mandated by

law, the Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit works closely with the District Attorney's Offices, the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI.)

The team approach was utilized in the investigation of the devastating fire in the City of Worcester which took the lives of six firefighters. State Police investigators assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal spent countless hours assisting in the grim task of recovering the remains of the lost firefighters, at all times being cognizant that they were working a crime scene, and that it would be their task to determine the cause and origin of the fire. Because the tragic loss of life was alleged to be caused by reckless and wanton acts, our investigators worked closely with the State Police Detectives at the Worcester County District Attorney's Office. ATF provided assistance at the scene, and all worked closely with the Worcester Fire Chief and his investigators.

Other examples of the team approach can be seen in the recent investigation of the explosion in Everett. That case alleges that a horrible and devastating domestic abuse crime — planting of an explosive device — resulted in a death of the female victim (Jan 2000).

In February, 1999, there was an explosion at the Jahn Foundry in Springfield which resulted in twelve of their employees suffering burns ranging from 40 to 100 percent of their bodies. Three of the employees subsequently died from their injuries. A unified command system was developed to secure the scene, stabilize the structure, insure the safety of the investigators, and pursue the investigation into the cause and origin of the event. A Joint Foundry Explosion Investigation Team was constituted to effect those ends. The team was comprised of OSHA, the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Springfield Fire and Police Arson Squad. The team approach

developed methods for the effective conduct of interviews, review of documents, examination of the scene, and the collection and control of evidence. The team approach minimized the duplication of effort, made maximum use of the available resources, and made effective use of the diversity and collective knowledge of team members.

Presently there are four accelerant K-9's which complement the team approach to investigations. The K-9's and their handlers are utilized in investigations where accelerants are suspected in the cause of a fire and should be utilized in all cases where evidence is being submitted to the lab.

There are five, certified explosive K-9's who will be working with State Police Explosive Technicians. These SP Officers assigned to the Hazardous Devices Unit have a variety of cases and responsibilities which include responding to bomb reports or to the location of suspicious packages. The bomb techs are responsible for the removal and destruction of explosive devices or military ordinance, and the removal of hazardous devices.

In 1999, there were a total of 1,933 fires investigated with a total of 197 arrests on 552 charges. There were 411 felony charges for which convictions were handed down. Additionally, members of the unit provided over 900 hours of training to other departments involved in arson investigation.

The Hazardous Devices Unit responded to 243 reports of suspicious packages and recovered 94 explosive devices and 181 military ordinance. They recovered 43 "hoax devices" and had 172 calls from various departments for pick-up and disposal of illegal fireworks. Members of the Hazardous Devices Unit also conducted 377 instructional seminars to promote awareness among organizations likely to become targets of terrorist or "hoax" activity. ♦

Visit to Abbottville

By: Alfred E. LeBlanc - Coordinator
Firefighter Skills Training Group

Picture this...a room of grown adults gathered around a table pushing matchbox toys around miniature buildings with two way radios being used to talk to people 10 feet away. A gentleman wearing various wigs and costumes acts out several characters. Is this your idea of training? You probably would say no. Well, think again.

Recently, a three-day "Command School 2000" was held in Nashua, NH and sponsored by the Northeast Fire Apparatus Inc. Over 200 firefighters from six northeastern states participated in several workshops. These workshops dealt with present day issues involving incident command, management, special hazards, and rapid intervention.

One unique presentation called "Abbottville Mall" was presented by Retired Indianapolis Division Chief Don Abbott. He has created a tabletop city diorama with the unique qualities of a tabletop simulator that can create scenarios that bring a bead of sweat to the most experienced emergency responder. The look, sounds, and details of this diorama fill each scenario with real life stresses.

"Lessons learned" is the component most appreciated when the scenarios are completed. Many of these lessons were discussed in an open forum to bring to light any weaknesses in the responders actions.

Fundamentally speaking, the scenario, like real life, cannot be handled without Incident Management System basics. Most participants wanted to make a tactical move without the strategic plan in place. The order should be to establish incident objectives, select appropriate strategy, then perform the tactical objectives. A brief look at developing an "Incident Action Plan" included the following:

- What do you have?

- Where is it going?
- Set priorities in order of importance.
- Decide on strategy & tactics to meet the priorities.
- Develop an organizational staff to meet strategy.
- Revisit plan. Have strategy and tactics met priorities?

The prelude to the scenario exercise was the considerations involved for dealing with a fire at a strip mall, shopping center, or mall. Since nearly every community has such a dwelling, it is imperative to become familiar with the various components and issues. To highlight just a few, we need to look at construction considerations. Most are lightweight, wooden beams, trusses, or bar joists that offer little stability under fire conditions. These have contributed to many firefighter deaths in early collapses.

Knowing how the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) or smoke management systems work is a must. Mall security and store personnel are important for evacuation and information. Don't ignore them. They know where the standpipes, sprinkler siamese connections, and other fire protection features are. The list goes on and on.

These are just a few of the components that stood out during this presentation that bring to light the necessity of knowing proper search procedures, roof and ventilation operations, hose operations, built-in protections, as well as accountability and safety procedures. Firefighting in these structures is much different than in a typical house fire. As in real life, the one issue that became abundantly clear in Abbottville was that "ICS/IMS" must be used.

Operations involving shopping malls will require extensive resources beyond our initial response. We all need to be thinking of these issues now. It's not a question of will you have a fire in one of these structures, but when. Are you ready? ♦



Shoppers Fight Fire With Furnishings

Fight fire with furnishings? That's what smart shoppers can do when they buy flame-retardant furnishings. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 55 Americans die each month in fires involving upholstered furniture. When it comes to fires, "Upholstered furniture is the most dangerous product in the home," said Donald P. Bliss, spokesman for the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). California is currently the only state that requires furniture to meet flammability standards. Since these standards took effect in the 1970s, California has seen a 25 percent decrease in deaths from fires starting in upholstered furniture. Consumers in other states can benefit from California's standards, too. "Many stores across the nation will sell furniture meeting California flammability standards—but you have to ask for it," said Bliss. You should not have to pay extra for furniture with this additional measure of safety, Bliss added. In 1994, NASFM urged the CPSC to develop national flammability standards to deter furniture fires. That research is ongoing, but progress has been delayed by furniture industry lobbying. So for the time being, buy only upholstered furniture that meets California flammability standards, and rest a little easier, said Bliss. ♦



Many fire marshals believe that setting national fire safety standards for furniture could save lives.

New DFS Web page rollout

The Department of Fire Services is proud to announce the launch of our new and improved web page at: www.state.ma.us/dfs

New Features:

- 527 CMR 1.00 – 50.00 unofficial copies of each section is available for download in MS Word and Adobe.
- Query the Underground Storage Tank Registry by facility, address, city, county or FDID # and download the results. The entire database is also available for download.
- Improved MFA course listings and on-line course registration. The form for 'off-line' registration is now available for download.
- Fire Data – MFIRS v5 information for fire departments and vendors.
- Office of the State Fire Marshal forms:

FP-2	Storage of Flammables and Combustibles
FP-5	Certificate of Registration
FP-6	Application for Standard Permit
FP-7	Certificate of Compliance for Installation of Smoke Detectors
FP-290	Registration of Underground Storage Tanks (Parts 1, 2, and 3)
FP-290R	Removal of Underground Storage Tanks

Other Highlights:

- DFS Quarterly – current issue and archives back to June 1998
- Hazmat District Information and Maps
- State Fire Marshal Advisories – Index of advisories since 1997
- Public Education
- Current Events

Eight Fire Officials Selected for Harvard Senior Executives In Government Program

Washington-Eight senior fire officials have been awarded fellowships to attend Harvard University's annual Senior Executives in State & Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. The 19-day program includes other state and local government leaders from across the country, and focuses on defining problems, analyzing policy options, and determining the roles of public officials in today's environment. The fellowship program for senior fire officials began in 1984 and was expanded this year from six to eight participants.

Tuition costs for six fellows will be provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will also sponsor two fellows. The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) will assist candidates with travel costs. FEMA's U.S. Fire Administration/National Fire Academy administers the competitive selection process.

Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government's admission committee awarded the eight fellowships based on the recommendations of a nominating panel comprised of FEMA staff, fire service officials, and former program participants.

This year's selections are:

- Leslie W. Bunte, Jr., Assistant Fire Chief, Austin Fire Dept., Austin, Texas
- Eileen G. Graham, Battalion Commander, Albuquerque Fire Dept., Albuquerque, N.M.
- Christopher Gray, Assistant Fire Chief, Glendale Fire Dept., Glendale, Calif.
- Attilio K. Leonardi, Fire Chief, Honolulu Fire Dept., Honolulu, Hawaii

- William L. McDonald, Fire Chief, San Mateo Fire Dept., San Mateo, Calif.
- Robin F. Paulsgrove, Fire Chief, Arlington Fire Dept., Arlington, Texas
- William L. Pessemier, Fire Chief, Littleton Fire Dept., Littleton, Colo.
- Thomas R. Wood, Deputy Fire Chief, Boca Raton Fire-Rescue Service Dept., Boca Raton, Fla. ♦

Senior Fire Safety Workshops

On April 27th, the final Senior Fire Safety workshop was completed in Worcester. The workshops gave fire departments an opportunity to meet and form partnerships with members of the Massachusetts Coalition of Councils on Aging in their community. The goal of the workshops was to pool community resources to develop or improve existing senior fire safety efforts. The workshops were presented by Jennifer Mieth and Charlie Johnson from the Department of Fire Services and Kathy Stimpson from the Department of Public Health. The workshops presented every fire department with a free copy of NFPA's *Remembering When: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults* compliments of the Massachusetts FAIR Plan. To date, 90 fire departments have received their free copy of this program. If your department has not received a copy, please contact the Public Education Hotline at 1-877-9NO-FIRE (1-877-966-3473). Leave your name, fire department and a return phone number so that arrangements could be made for delivery. Western Massachusetts fire departments can contact Sally Wrobek or David Beaudin in the western Mass. office at (413) 587-3181. ♦

NEWS FROM CPSC

The following items are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should stop using these products immediately and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed.



April 24, 2000, Release # 00-100

Recall of Battery Chargers

In cooperation with the CPSC, Sta-Rite Industries Inc., of Delavan, Wis., is voluntarily recalling about 29,000 battery chargers used in battery back-up sump pump systems. The battery chargers can overheat and ignite, melting the charger housing and posing a fire hazard. Sta-Rite has received seven reports of battery chargers overheating or catching fire. Four incidents have involved smoke or fire damage to homes, confined to the immediate area of the charger. No injuries have been reported. The recalled battery chargers are used in the "Flotec" and "Sears" back-up sump pump systems. The sump pump system is used to remove water from homes that have basements. This recall involves the charger only, not the sump pump. Consumers can identify whether the sump pump's battery charger is being recalled by checking the sump pump system model number. The Flotec system is model number FP2000DCC-02 or 2P667B and the Sears system is model number

390.306062. The brand name and model number can be found on the pump model plate located on the pump. The part number on the charger is PS17-77 and can be found below the meter on the charger. Sta-Rite will help consumers determine if the battery charger is part of this recall. Large and small home centers, auto parts and plumbing supply stores, including Sears, W.W. Grainger, Advanced Auto Parts, Home Quarters, Home Depot, and Hechinger sold the sump pump systems nationwide from December 1994 through September 1997 for about \$200. The battery chargers also were sold as a replacement part for the sump pump systems for about \$130.



April 12, 2000, Release # 00-097

Recall of Toasters

In cooperation with the CPSC, Proctor-Silex Inc., of Glen Allen, Va., is voluntarily recalling about 95,000 toasters. The heating elements in these toasters can remain on after the toast pops up. This poses a fire hazard.

CPSC and Proctor-Silex have received at least 24 complaints from consumers of these toasters staying on after the toast popped up. There have been three reports of food fires, resulting in property damage to kitchen cabinets. No injuries have been reported. These are traditional upright electric toasters with single lifters and four extra-wide slots that can accommodate bread or

bagels. The toasters with model number 24205 are white, and toasters with model number 24208 are black and chrome. The model number, series code, UL logo and "MADE IN CHINA" are printed on the bottom of the toaster. The recall includes only toasters with series codes A0379 through A3279 or series code A2589 through A3289. The name "Proctor-Silex" is written in gray lettering on the front panel of the toaster. A control dial, labeled in units from "1" to "6" for adjusting the degree of toasting, and a bread lifter for raising and lowering the food are located on the front of the toaster. Mass merchandise stores nationwide, including Ames, Bradlees, Burdines, Eckerd, Rite Aid, Servistar and Walgreens, sold these toasters from April 1997 through September 1999 for between \$20 and \$25.



April 11, 2000, Release # 00-096

Recall of Homelite® Handheld Power Blowers/Vacuums

In cooperation with CPSC, John Deere Consumer Products Inc., of Charlotte, N.C., is voluntarily recalling about 200,000 Homelite® handheld power blowers/vacuums. The fuel line location can cause it to contact the edge of the engine shroud, causing the line to prematurely wear. This can result in a gasoline leak, presenting a fire hazard and causing burn injuries to consumers. John Deere Consumer Products has received two reports of the fuel line leaking from these power blowers/vacuums. There have been no reports of fires or injuries. These

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gasoline-powered, handheld power blowers/vacuums are red and black. The Homelite® logo is written on the inlet cover door. They can be identified by the following UT and serial numbers on a sticker attached to the unit near the blower tube:

UT numbers

UT08052	UT08052A
UT08052B	UT08052C
UT08057	UT08057A
UT08057B	UT08058
UT08058A	UT08058B
UT08059	UT08059A
UT08059B	UT08066
UT08066A	UT08066B
UT08067	UT08067A
UT08067C	UT08069
UT08069B	UT08070R
UT08071R	UT08076
UT08076A	UT08084
UT08085	UT08086
UT08089	UT08090
UT08091	UT08105
UT08107	UT08108

Serial numbers

HT2130001 through HT3659999
HA0010001 through HA3659999
MA0010001 through MA3659999
MB0010001 through MB0459999

Home center and hardware stores including the Home Depot, Eagle Hardware and Ace Hardware, sold these blowers/vacuums nationwide from August 1998 through January 2000 for about \$150.



April 5, 2000, Release # 00-091

Recall to Replace Skeet Shoot Game Cartridges

In cooperation with the CPSC, Toymax Inc., of Plainview, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling approximately 435,000 Arcadia Electronic Skeet Shoot games to replace the game cartridges. The skeet shoot games' cartridges can be defective, and can cause the projector to overheat, melt and smoke, presenting a risk of burns to consumers. Toymax has received 100 reports of projectors overheating, melting and smoking. A consumer reportedly suffering a minor burn injury on the hand, and damages included two scorched carpets and one scorched bedspread. The Arcadia Electronic Skeet Shoot game sets are an indoor image projecting game systems that include Duck Shoot and Deer Hunter games. The game sets include a toy pump-action rifle with a simulated laser scope and realistic shooting sounds when fired. The Duck Shoot game has a gray rifle and projector. The Deer Hunter game has a camouflage rifle and projector. "ARCADIA ELECTRONIC SKEET SHOOT" is written on a label on the projector. Writing on the bottom of the projector includes "1998 TOYMAX," "PATENT PENDING" and "MADE IN CHINA." Meteor Attack and Fighter Attack game cartridges, which are used with the Arcadia Electronic Skeet Shoot games, are sold separately. The Meteor Attack cartridge is silver and the Fighter Attack cartridge is black. Toy and discount department stores nationwide, including Toys R Us, Sam's

Club, K.B Toys™ and Costco, sold these games from October 1998 through March 2000 for about \$65.



April 4, 2000, Release # 00-089

Recall of Upright Vacuum Cleaners

In cooperation with the CPSC, BISSELL® Homecare Inc. of Grand Rapids, Mich., is recalling about 207,000 PowerClean™ and PureAir™ upright vacuum cleaners. The power cord insulation can tear where the cord attaches to the vacuum, exposing bare wires. This poses a risk of shock and burns to consumers.

BISSELL is aware of 54 reports of the cords on these vacuums tearing. There has been one report of a consumer suffering a burn injury on her hand.

The recall includes one model of the BISSELL PowerClean™ vacuum and three models of the BISSELL® PureAir™ vacuum cleaners. The PowerClean™ vacuum has model number 3540-1 and is black. The PureAir™ vacuum has model number 3540-2 and is blue. The PureAir™ Deluxe vacuum has model number 3541, and is purple. The PureAir™ Platinum vacuum has model number 3541-P, and is purple. The model

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number is located on a label on the back of the vacuum. These vacuums have date codes from 98176000 through 99254999, located in the bottom right-hand corner of the label. The recalled vacuums do not have a 3-inch plastic flex relief where the power cord enters the vacuum handle. Major discount, appliance and department stores sold these vacuum cleaners nationwide from July 1998 through March 2000 for between \$89 and \$159.



April 11, 2000, Release # 00-095

Recall of Lawnmowers

In cooperation with the CPSC, American Honda Motor Co. Inc., of Torrance, Calif., is recalling about 112,000 lawnmowers. The lawnmowers' fuel tanks' seam can split or crack, leaking fuel, and creating a fire and burn hazard to consumers. American Honda Motor Co. has 25 reports of fuel leaking from these lawnmowers. There have been no fires or injuries reported. The recall involves Harmony II walk-behind mowers with model numbers HRT216, HRR216 and HRS216. "Harmony II" and the model number are written on the front of the lawnmowers. The recalled mowers have an engine serial number between 1128495 and 1438098. The engine serial number is located under the fan cover, stamped into the engine case. The lawnmowers are dark gray with red fan covers. "HONDA" is written on the top of the fan casing.

Honda power equipment dealers and The Home Depot sold the lawnmowers nationwide from May 1998 through January 2000 for about \$430.



April 7, 2000, Release # 00-093

Recall of Children's Lamps

In cooperation with the CPSC, Kmart Corp., of Troy, Mich., is voluntarily recalling about 280,000 children's decorative lamps. The lamps can short circuit posing a fire hazard. Kmart has received eight reports of the lamps short-circuiting and catching fire, resulting in property damage. One of these fires resulted in more than \$15,000 in damages, and another caused more than \$3,000 in damages. No injuries or deaths have been reported. The "Little Ones" wooden accent lamps being recalled come in six different styles: an airplane lamp, alphabet letters (ABC) lamp, numbers (123) lamp, baseball with bat lamp, train lamp and sailboat lamp. The lamps are approximately 15 inches high with wood bases. A price label on the bottom of the base reads, "Made in China for Kmart Corporation." "Little Ones fun accent lamps for kids" is written on a paper insert packaged on the lampshade. Kmart stores nationwide sold the lamps from January 1993 through March 2000 for between \$13 and \$15.

April 3, 2000, Release # 00-088

Futon Recall

In cooperation with the CPSC, the Standard Mattress Co., of Hartford, Conn., is voluntarily recalling approxi-

mately 47,000 futons. Some of these futons may fail cigarette ignition resistance tests, in violation of the federal Flammable Fabrics Act, because the boric acid flame retardant inside the futons may not have been evenly disbursed. This could result in burn injuries, should one of these futons catch fire. CPSC and the Standard Mattress Co. are not aware of any fires or injuries involving these futons. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries. The futons being recalled were sold between May 1998 and October 1998 with model numbers 605, 608, 611, and 613, sold under the brand names of Gold Bond, IKEA, and Verlo. The model number and brand name are located on the permanently sewn-in label. The futons come in varied sizes, most of which are full size. Other sizes include king/chair, queen and twin. All are covered in a cotton/polyester fabric in a natural (off-white) color. Furniture and futon stores nationwide sold the futons from May 1998 through October 1998 for \$140 to \$250.



March 9, 2000, Release # 00-076

Recall of Lighters

In cooperation with the CPSC, Michael's Stores Inc., of Irving, Texas, is recalling about 213,000 all-purpose lighters. These lighters can leak butane when they are ignited, causing an excessive burst of flame from the tip or other areas of the lighter. This presents

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a risk of fire and burn injuries to consumers. Michael's Stores Inc. has received 14 reports of excessive flame, resulting in three reports of burns to consumers' hands. The recalled all-purpose lighters are refillable and contain butane. They are about 9-inches long and have a white plastic base; red, green or blue plastic handle with a black plastic trigger and on/off switch; and a metal barrel. A yellow label is affixed to the handle and reads in part, "DANGER: EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE...MADE IN CHINA." The lighters were packaged in a cardboard display sleeve under the brand name Handy Home. The brand name is not on the lighter. Michael's Stores nationwide sold the lighters from July 1998 through January 2000 for about \$2.



March 2, 2000, Release # 00-074

Recall of Coffeemakers

In cooperation with the CPSC, Tim Hortons, a chain of coffeeshops operated by the TDL Group Ltd., of Ontario, Canada, is recalling about 31,000 coffeemakers sold in the U.S. and Canada. The coffeepot's handle can break, causing the pot to fall. Consumers can suffer burn injuries from hot coffee or lacerations from

broken glass. Tim Hortons has received 150 reports of handles breaking off of the coffeepots, resulting in nine burn injuries. The recalled coffeemaker is made of black plastic. The coffeepot is made of glass with a black plastic handle. The top of the handle has a red thumbrest. Measurement units on the pot are "24 oz/682 mL" and "48oz/1363 mL." "Tim Hortons" is on the coffeemaker and the coffeepot. Tim Hortons coffeeshops in Kentucky, Ohio, Maine, Michigan, New York and West Virginia sold the coffeemakers from October 1999 through February 2000 for about \$65. Tim Hortons coffeemakers that are made of white plastic are not part of this recall.

February 8, 2000, Release # 00-064

CPSC, Distributors Announce Recall of "FIRE CAP" Fire and Smoke Suppressants

WASHINGTON, D.C. -The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and various distributors, are announcing the recall of more than 136,000 cans of "FIRE CAP" brand fire and smoke suppressant. The product does not suppress fires and could intensify fires. The product was manufactured by The Colbra Group, which is out of business.

CPSC is not aware of any incidents or injuries with this product. This recall is being conducted to help prevent injuries.

The 16-ounce aerosol cans are red, orange, yellow, black and white with a red plastic cap and red aerosol button. Wording on the front of the can reads in part, "FIRE CAP...FIRE and SMOKE SUPPRESSANT." "FOR USE ON SMALL SPOT FIRES..." is on the back of the can along with drawings of the product being used on a trash can fire, a stove fire, a car fire and a camp fire. "Manufactured by the Colbra Group" is written on the back of the can.

Snap-On Tools dealers, Home Shopping Network, and direct market distributors, including Mid-State Fire Systems, and Contract Filling Inc., sold the product nationwide from February 1996 through September 1999 for about \$10.

Consumers should stop using this product immediately. Consumers should either throw out the can or return it to the place where purchased for a full refund. Consumers should call CPSC's toll-free hotline at (800) 638-2772 for instructions on returning the product to the place of purchase.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risk of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information or report product hazards to info@cpsc.gov. ♦

Recall of In-Wall Electric Heaters

State Fire Marshal Coan recently received a letter from Cadet Manufacturing Company regarding a recall of in-wall heaters that may be installed in homes and other buildings in your jurisdiction. The following is excerpted from that January 31, 2000 letter.

In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC"), Cadet is recalling approximately 1.9 million in-wall electric heaters under the brand names Cadet and Encore. The recall includes all models and variants of Cadet and Encore Series FW, FX, LX, TK, ZA,

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Z, RA, RK, RLX, RX, and ZC. These heaters were sold from 1982 to 1999. According to the CPSC, these heaters may be defective, and could overheat, fail, catch fire, and spew flames and molten particles. Cadet and the CPSC are aware of a number of incidents of the heaters malfunctioning, causing the heaters to emit flames, sparks, and/or smoke. Some of these incidents have allegedly led to property damage, personal injury, and death. Cadet and the CPSC are urging consumers to participate in the recall.

This recall is distinct from Cadet's 1997 recall program. In the 1997 recall, Cadet offered to provide new over temperature limit control switches for replacement in certain of its heaters. The present recall involves the removal and replacement of the entire heatbox, not including any fittings, fixtures, wall cans, grills or thermostats.

Cadet needs your assistance in identifying locations containing the recalled heaters and in helping owners and residents determine whether they have the affected heaters. The attached summary includes product identification to help you and property and homeowners in your area determine whether they have the recalled heaters on their premises, and if they do, what model they have. We ask that you refer all interested parties to the Cadet Heater Recall Hotline at (800) 567-2613 or our website at www.cadetco.com. This recall program is offered only by Cadet, not through its retail, wholesale or distribution channels. The Hotline and website are the first places consumers should go to request an order form to participate in the recall. Also, please feel free to distribute copies of this letter and the attached summary to owners of recalled heaters in your jurisdiction.

Under the terms of the recall, Cadet will provide replacement heaters at the prices which are substantially below the

normal retail prices for these heaters.. Due to our 1999 Chapter 11 Bankruptcy, we are not able to provide free replacements or full reimbursements.

Timing is critical, because owners of recalled Cadet heaters must complete the necessary forms and return them within 24 months of the announcement of the recall to receive replacement heaters and/or reimbursement. We will provide replacement heaters on a first come, first served basis, at reduced prices.

Sincerely,

Hutch Johnson, President, Cadet Manufacturing Company

CPSC Seeks Fire Departments' Assistance on Fixed-Position Electric Heaters Fires

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is requesting the help of all U.S. fire departments to identify, and in some circumstances, recover, fixed-position electric heaters involved in fire incidents for use in CPSC laboratory examination and testing. Note that it is the fire department's responsibility to obtain the owner's consent before removing the heater. In addition, a heater should not be removed unless the fire department has confirmed that insurance agents do not need to examine the heater's original installation, or the heater itself, for possible civil litigation. In instances where the owner consents to the removal of the heater, the heater is not involved in litigation, and the fire department can provide the intact heater, CPSC is able to compensate fire departments up to \$100 for each heater.

Examples of fixed-position electric heaters include hard-wired baseboard heaters, in-wall heaters, floor-insert and kickspace heaters, and radiant heaters often installed in bathroom ceilings. A two-year project to collect physical samples of these heaters and to follow up on fire incidents related to these

heaters began in September 1999.

The CPSC staff is interested in obtaining fixed-position electric heaters from fire incidents where the fire originated in the heater. It is often difficult to reproduce failure modes that have occurred in a consumer's home in a laboratory setting. It is possible that a heater may function safely throughout its product life until the effects of age and routine consumer usage cause the components to fail in a way that creates a fire hazard. Seeing how the heating elements, connectors, and safety features responded to these effects, and perhaps a rare event like a power surge, will yield more compelling data than conducting analytical studies under controlled conditions. As a rule of thumb, if the wiring is substantially intact inside the heater, CPSC staff would like to obtain the product. Heaters largely destroyed by a fire do not generally contain any useful clues as to the component malfunction responsible.

When circumstances indicate that a fire did not originate inside a fixed-position electric heater, but that the external surface was hot enough to ignite nearby combustibles, CPSC staff is not interested in obtaining the heater. However, staff would like to be notified of the incident in order to consider conducting an investigation and collect the scenario information. Although the heaters do not necessarily "fail" in these situations, such a common scenario is worth addressing through product design and consumer education.

The CPSC staff is interested in obtaining the fire incident reports for all fires involving these types of heaters. In most cases, staff would also like to collect scenario information, including the nature of the material of any combustibles ignited, their proximity to the heater, how the consumer used the heater, and a description of the heater. CPSC staff collects this information via follow-up investigations

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that are voluntary. In certain cases, CPSC staff would like to obtain the heater involved in the incident.

In addition to implementing product recalls, which are manufacturer-specific, the CPSC staff also works closely with voluntary standards organizations, such as Underwriters Laboratories, to identify and recommend ways in which the standards can better address safety hazards. Often, the CPSC staff recommends performance requirements and, in some cases, identifies an alternative product design.

Fire personnel who become aware of incidents involving fixed-position electric heaters may contact the following CPSC Associate Regional Directors, depending on their state. Fire departments that already have a CPSC staff contact are encouraged to work directly with that staffperson.

Eastern Region - Raymond Benson, (609) 927-1840; rbenson@cpsc.gov. ♦

Big Day for Fire Service in Washington

Excerpted from an article in National Fire & Rescue Online, by Pat West.

A family member and colleague of the six Worcester firefighters who perished in the Cold Storage Warehouse in December traveled to Washington to testify in a long-awaited hearing before a Congressional subcommittee about the needs of America's fire service. Supporting their testimony just hours before the hearing were hundreds of firefighters from across the nation, who held a rally and press conference in front of the nation's Capital. The witnesses from Worcester were among a panel that testified before the House Transporta-

tion and Infrastructure Committee Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations and Emergency Management. The purpose of the hearing, sought for more than a year by the entire spectrum of fire service organizations and grassroots members across the nation, was to offer information relating to the need to increase federal support for local fire departments. Specifically, the hearing affects the future of two bills pending in Congress, most notably the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act (H.R. 1168), which authorizes a 5-year/\$5 billion federal grant program to support fire departments. The panel will also discuss H.R. 3155, the Firefighter's Local-Federal Assistance for Management of Emergencies (FLAME) Act, a one-year/\$11-million grant program. Witnesses representing agencies and fire service organizations included: Noreen Lucey of Worcester, Mass., sister of firefighter Jeremiah Lucey, who was killed in the blaze on Dec. 3; Frank Raffa, a Worcester firefighter and colleague of the six firefighters who perished; Kenneth O. Burris, the chief executive officer of the U.S. Fire Administration; Robert McGuire, Deputy Associate Administrator, Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation; Chief Luther Fincher, president, International Association of Fire Chiefs; Chief William Jenaway, King of Prussia (Pa.) Volunteer Fire Company; James Monihan of the National Volunteer Fire Council; Fred Nesbitt, Director of Governmental Affairs, International Association of Fire Fighters. Testifying at the hearing on a separate panel were U.S. House representatives Bill Pascrell Jr. (D.-N.J., author of the FIRE Act), Rep. Curt Weldon (R.-Pa.), Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), Nick Smith (R-Mich.), George Gekas (R-Pa.) and Mike Dewine (R-Ohio). The FIRE Act would authorize a \$5 billion federal grant program for local fire departments administered under the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The

grants could be used for hiring, training, equipping and educating firefighters in 32,000 American fire departments. The program would provide an unprecedented level of federal support for fire departments, but it would put federal spending for the fire service on a par with the federal support to law enforcement and educators. In 1999 the federal government spent more than \$11 billion on law enforcement, compared to an estimated \$75 million for fire prevention and training. The bill has more than 261 cosponsors in the house, more than enough to make it law if it goes to the floor for a vote. The FLAME Act, introduced in October by Rep. Gekas, would help volunteer fire companies pay debts for equipment by establishing an \$11 million-per year grant program to provide assistance to emergency response organizations in states that have an emergency response loan program. FLAME Act funds would total \$22 million and would be drawn from existing accounts under the U.S. Department of Transportation. The federal grants through these programs would be distributed in blocks of up to \$15,000, or equal to what the company receives through voluntary contributions and local government and municipality grants. Congress may either decide to support the status quo, which means leaving local communities to muster the funds needed to adequately equip their fire and emergency service agencies; or they'll vote to open a new age in federal support for firefighters and the communities they protect. ♦

Do you have a S.A.F.E. Young Hero?

Please let us know about your young hero. We would like to know what the student did right, what key fire safety behavior did they demonstrate? How old (or what grade are they in) are they now, and how old were they (or what grade were they in) when they received their S.A.F.E. Education? Please spell their name correctly and tell us what date the act of heroism occurred. Then fax, mail or e-mail the description to the S.A.F.E. Staff. Then you should work on organizing an event that will recognize the young hero. Fire is a traumatic event no matter how old you are, so it is important to work closely with the family and the school and if need be, the guidance counselor, to determine what level of an event to organize. Sometimes a quiet ceremony in front of the homeroom is best. Sometimes an assembly in front of the whole school works. As soon as you select the date, let the S.A.F.E. Staff know and we will see if the State Fire Marshal, the Deputy State Fire Marshal, the

Public Education Manager, the S.A.F.E. Coordinator or the Western Mass. S.A.F.E. Coordinator can attend. We will bring an individualized certificate and take a few moments to congratulate the young hero and the local team that has worked together to deliver the S.A.F.E. Program. Remember that the local team includes not only the firefighter-educators and classroom teachers, but may also include principals, school superintendents, fire chiefs, chairs of boards of selectmen, school committees, city councils, mayors, state representatives and senators. This is an opportunity to teach all our children that they have the knowledge to be young heroes too (although we hope they never have to), and a chance to let other members of the community know that the S.A.F.E. Program works. If appropriate, invite the local media to cover the event.

In the first five years of the S.A.F.E. Program, there have been more than 80 young heroes!

S.A.F.E. Program

Looking for creative ways to expand your department's S.A.F.E. Program? The Swampscott Fire Department has developed a S.A.F.E. Sitters Program for seventh graders. S.A.F.E. Coordinators Remo Zimbaldi and Sheila Scranton plan to incorporate fire safety topics, such as reporting emergencies (911) and candle safety, into a babysitting course. Through this program, each child will receive a magnetized dry-erase memo board, so as sitters, they will be able to write down important information (contact numbers and special instructions). The Swampscott Fire Department is certain that everyone will benefit from this program because many children are often put in charge of watching over a younger brother or sister and the knowledge learned and the availability of the memo board will make their job easier. The memo board also serves as a checklist to parents for information that should be available to the sitter. ♦



Members of the Wakefield Fire Department, Chief David L. Parr, State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan with Alec and Tori Cote, two S.A.F.E. Young Heroes.

• **Tori and Alec Cote**

Seven year old Tori had insisted that the family develop a home escape plan from her second grade fire safety education, never realizing the family would need to use it a few days later. On December 30, 1999, wood ashes stored outside ignited the back deck catching a propane cylinder that fueled the fire. Tori's grandfather discovered the fire and awakened his wife and oldest son; then he alerted his daughter, Tori's mother who lives in the main part of the house. Tori's mom and her 4-year old brother Alec found her at the designated meeting spot out front. Six occupants escaped without injury. ♦

**The Department of Fire Services
and Area Fire Departments**

present

Western Massachusetts

FAMILY FIRE SAFETY DAY

June 25, 2000

11:00 – 4:00

Free!

at the

Free!

**Eastern States Exposition,
The “Big E” Fairgrounds**

in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Plenty of free parking!

Events and Activities include:

- ◆ Fire Apparatus Parade
By the New England Association of Fire Chiefs – 11:00
- ◆ Patches and Pumper
- ◆ Fire safety demonstrations
- ◆ Fire Safety Smoke Maze
- ◆ Fire Safety House
- ◆ Fire Extinguisher Props
- ◆ Try on Junior Fire Gear
- ◆ Fire Safety Squirt House Prop
- ◆ Interactive demonstrations and activities for children
- ◆ Special guest Sparky® the Fire Dog

Also sponsored by:



Fire Officer Training

Continued from page 1

Fire Officer Leadership: This account allows us to present programs such as *Managing Company Tactical Operations* (MCTO) series or Leadership series. This past year we were able to do presentations in Three Rivers and Truro. This coming fiscal year, the responsibility to present Officer level training has been shifted to this training group to allow us more opportunity to present the training being requested by the county training coordinators. We are looking forward to this challenge.

Fire Officer Graduate Seminar: We did not offer a seminar in fiscal year 2000 but do plan to in the next year. We are working with the recruit program to integrate a program where the company officer gets the opportunity to view the survival skills training the recruits are learning. The goal will be to heighten the Officer's understanding and awareness of this important firefighter safety skill. We also will introduce the officer to the new practices, procedures, technology and assistance available to make the job they do more effective. ♦

Theme for Fire Prevention Week: Fire Drills: The Great Escape! October 8-14, 2000

Now entering its third and final year, "Fire Drills: The Great Escape!" has already proved to be a great success. To date, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has documented 56 lives saved as a direct result of family participation in the campaign. Those "saves" are the result of hard work by fire departments and safety advocates across North America, and we congratulate all of them for their efforts. As Fire Prevention Week (FPW) 2000, October 8-14, approaches, NFPA hopes more fire departments participate in "The Great Escape" than ever before. Increased fire department support will maximize the number of families that have been reached and influenced by the campaign's home fire escape messages and, ultimately, will help save even more lives.

What is "The Great Escape"?

In May 1997, NFPA conducted a survey which revealed that too few people develop and practice home fire escape plans. In response to those findings, NFPA created a three-year public safety campaign during Fire Prevention Week called "Fire Drills: The Great Escape!" Launched in October 1998, "The Great Escape" centers around a unified North American fire drill (a.k.a. the world's largest fire drill) and two grand prize contests for all fire drill participants. These fun, educational activities work

to get communities actively involved in home fire escape planning and practice.

National Fire Drill Wednesday,
October 11 at 7 p.m.



This year, "The Great Escape" fire drill will officially take place on Wednesday, October 11, 2000, at 7:00 p.m.

What's Planned for FPW 2000?

While NFPA can only reach its goals with local fire departments' help, we've learned that "The Great Escape" has been too

time-intensive and costly. In response to feedback from fire departments throughout North America, NFPA has made significant changes to FPW 2000 so that fire departments can seamlessly roll the campaign into their traditional FPW activities. These changes should make support of "The Great Escape" almost effortless! At the same time, FPW 2000 offers the flexibility for fire departments that have successfully conducted "The Great Escape" over the past two years to continue their efforts. This year's tool kit, which will be distributed during the summer, provides all the materials for fire departments and safety advocates to prepare for FPW 2000. Fire departments that want to start planning this spring, virtually all the tool kit materials will be available on the NFPA webpage by the end of May. In addition, the materials needed for everyone to participate in "The Great Escape" fire drill and contests (primarily the official planning grid and contest entry form) will be available to the public at the same time. ♦

Webpages on Juvenile Firesetting Intervention

<http://www.state.il.us/osfm/jfs5.htm>

This will link up to:

Illinois Youthful Firesetters Intervention Association

Oregon Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Unit

North Central Connecticut Firehawk Chapter

Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program, Ontario, Canada

Lowell, Massachusetts Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

Youth Firesetters Program, Phoenix, Arizona

SOSFIRES: Youth Intervention Programs

Firefighters Quarterly Online Edition

International Association of Arson Investigators

Juvenile Firesetter Program, San Mateo, California

FEMA's National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse

Washington Insurance Council Review of Literature on Child Firesetters

Juvenile Firesetters, Palatine, IL Fire Department

Two other links that are beneficial:

[http://www.theideabank.com/](http://www.theideabank.com/jfs_board/messages/77.html)

[jfs_board/messages/77.html](http://www.theideabank.com/jfs_board/messages/77.html)

[http://www.sosfires.com/](http://www.sosfires.com/resource_exchange/messages/44.html)

[resource_exchange/messages/44.html](http://www.sosfires.com/resource_exchange/messages/44.html) ♦

Juvenile Firesetting Grant

Continued from page 2

will be sent for signature and then the project will start to connect the selected firefighter to training and the regional fire school.

Better Identification of Juvenile-Set Fires

Another goal is to increase the willingness of prosecutors to charge juvenile firesetters by providing a connection to services by improving case development at the fire investigator level. This will include efforts to train local fire investigators to correctly identify a juvenile-set fire and utilize trained State Police fire investigators, to educate local fire service personnel on the importance of correctly identifying a juvenile firesetter and referring the juvenile firesetter to the appropriate intervention systems, and to conduct of joint training in interview techniques of juveniles for fire investigators and juvenile officers.

Improving MFIRS Data on Juvenile Firesetting

One of the frustrations for the fire service and others involved in juvenile firesetting intervention has been the inability of the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System to fully capture the extent of the juvenile firesetting problem. On January 1, 2001, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be converting to Version 5 of the National Fire Incident Reporting System which contains a module for reporting arson information and juvenile firesetting information. For the first time, MFIRS will be able to accurately track these fires and have something intelligent to say about them. This is not a tracking or reporting system on the juveniles who set fires, it is a fire incident reporting system. We will garner better information about the fires themselves.

Community Awareness

The project also hopes to increase community awareness of the issue and create a way for the community to access services by establishing a hotline for referral to services of juvenile firesetters by fire departments and families. We are also looking forward to the release of the forthcoming U.S. Fire Administration community awareness package on juvenile firesetting. ♦

Technologies for Public Safety in Critical Incident Response Conference 2000

This conference, held June 7-10 in Denver, CO, brings together first responders to exchange information, see the latest technologies available for incident response and management, and hear their peers and experts relate valuable insights on using technology to respond to threats to public safety, such as terrorist incidents, major industrial accidents, natural disasters and threats to our schools. For additional information or to register online, please visit the [Justice Technology Information Network](http://www.justicetechnologyinformationnetwork.com) web site. ♦

MFIRS CORNER

Version 5

There are six months remaining until the implementation of v5, of the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System. This is an important time for fire departments to be making plans for the transition. It is important for chief officers to share any and all information on v5 with the people in the fire department who are responsible for the MFIRS reports and fire data. Now is the time to involve them in planning for this major revision of the way we collect fire data in the state. Here are a few key points to remember about the implementation of v5:

1. The current version (Version IV) will no longer be available or supported as of January 1, 2001. Version 5 will not be supported until this date. It is such a major overhaul of how fires will be reported that we could not have any reliable statistics about fires unless all departments change at the same time.
2. All Massachusetts fire departments must use v5 according to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 148 Section 2.
3. Version 5 is the first major overhaul in the way we collect fire incident data nationally in over 20 years.
4. Many of the innovations of v5 started here in Massachusetts, such as collecting information on hazardous materials responses and calls for carbon monoxide incidents, have been incorporated into the national system.
5. At this time you should be thinking of converting your current software to v5 and asking your vendor if there are hardware updates as well.

6. Fire departments that are currently submitting data on forms provided by my office are strongly encouraged to begin the process of automation.
7. Fire departments who are using paper forms that will not become automated for v5 will be provided with the necessary forms as currently practiced.
8. If your fire department is planning on automating incident reporting for the first time, please contact our office for assistance.
9. It is important to remember that although the Fire Data and Public Education Unit will work with any vendor, we strongly encourage you to purchase software from a vendor that has passed the two part pilot test for Massachusetts v5 Certification.
10. Keep in mind that Massachusetts collects several fields by law that the federal system does not collect. Just because a vendor is certified by the U.S. Fire Administration does not mean they are certified in Massachusetts. BUYERS BEWARE!
11. No vendor has been certified in Massachusetts as of April 19, 2000.
12. The training schedule is awaiting approval and fire chiefs are encouraged to send two to three of the key people who handle the incident reporting for their department. (For automated communities, working with a demo of v5 will be helpful when it comes time for training.)

Thank you for your support of the MFIRS program. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (978) 567-3382 or email Amy.Uzdavinis@state.ma.us. ♦

Are Dumpster Fires Really 'No Loss' Fires?

Massachusetts fire departments respond to hundreds if not thousands of dumpster fires every year. But we don't really know how many because all too often it is considered a 'no loss' nuisance fire by the fire department and not a "reportable incident" for the Mass. Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). Captain Peter Raiskio of Yarmouth Fire and Rescue, has collected information on the cost to replace a dumpster that is damaged by fire according to a local waste company. He uses it as a rule of thumb to estimate the cost of a dumpster fire. As you can see, if you are a dumpster owner that must replace it due to a fire, it is a costly nuisance.

2-yd. container:	\$330.00
4-yd. Container:	\$395.00
6-yd. container:	\$500.00
8-yd. container:	\$595.00
10-yd. container:	\$750.00
15-yd. container:	\$2,000.00
30-yd. container:	\$2,695.00
40-yd. container:	\$4,200.00



Recruit Class #135 Graduated on May 26, 2000



The 135th Class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's fifty-five day Recruit Firefighting Program graduated on May 26, 2000. This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to effectively and safely

perform their jobs. The forty-four graduates, including forty-three men and one woman, represent the fire departments of: Andover, Attleboro, Billerica, Burlington, Devens, Franklin, Haverhill, Hudson, Hull, Longmeadow, Lowell, Ludlow,

Mashpee, Massport, Melrose, Nahant, Natick, Northampton, Norton, Randolph, Revere, Seekonk, Shrewsbury, Taunton, Watertown, Wellfleet, West Springfield, and Winchester. ♦

Incident Management for Safety

By Mark J. Cady, Firefighter Skills Group

Incident Management often is a very complex topic for most firefighters to fully understand. Incident management is the team approach of information gathering and plan development that allows the incident to operate in the safest manner possible. The most important aspect of incident management for members to understand is how they integrate into this system and what their roles and responsibilities entail.

Fire service personnel should understand that everyone works under this incident management all the time. The larger or more complex the incident the more it becomes defined and noticeable. This does not preclude firefighters from working under this system at smaller incidents. It is

actually these smaller daily incidents that allow us to reinforce the basic concepts of incident management for larger incidents.

Incident Management is nothing more than a plan for that incident. The incident commander is the coordinator of that plan. The plan is strategically designed to develop the safest and quickest mode to mitigate the hazardous conditions that were present upon arrival. The incident commander can only develop a plan from accurate information that is gathered by other companies working at the incident.

The fire companies operating at an incident often do so in areas that are not visible to the incident commander. This is where the roles and responsibilities of the fire companies become critical. The plan can not be developed

safely if the incident commander does not have all of the information that is available.

Fire companies will be assigned tasks upon arrival at an incident. These tasks are the beginning of the operational plan. When situations arise that may hinder the tasks' completion, the company must report this to the incident commander. The delay in completing tasks may involve a change in the tactics currently taking place at the incident.

In conclusion, each member of the fire service needs to understand their role and responsibility within the incident management system. It is imperative that all companies working at an incident have radio communications with the incident commander and other adjacent companies. ♦



State Fire Marshal Coan, Public Safety Secretary Jane Perlov and Worcester Fire Chief Dennis Budd.

Worcester Fire Chief Thanks Marshal Coan

On May 1, 2000, Worcester Fire Chief Budd and Public Safety Secretary Jane Perlov, presented a plaque to Stephen D. Coan to thank him for his efforts to coordinate the resources of the Department of Fire Services and the Fire Chiefs' Associa-

tion of Massachusetts to assist the Worcester Fire Department last December. The entire staff of the Department of Fire Services was on hand and managed to keep the presentation secret from the Marshal. ♦

WMFP-TV: A Partner in Fire Safety

WMFP-TV 62 Donated \$50,000 of free air time to help promote the cause of public fire safety. General Manager Lou James informed State Fire Marshal Coan in a March letter, that since February, 1999, his television station has helped to create broader community awareness of fire safety by donating free air time for a public service announcement (psa) on smoke alarms. This psa, produced by

Arnold Communications, educates the public about smoking as a leading cause of fires and the leading cause of fire deaths, and promotes installing and maintaining smoke alarms. It closes with the S.A.F.E. logo and the public education hotline number, 1-877-9NO-FIRES. What is most impressive about the WMFP-TV contribution is that they did not air the psa at 3 a.m., but aired it during a variety of prime daytime and evening viewing slots. ♦

Licensing Exam Dates

Monday, June 12, 2000 9 a.m.
Fireworks Cannons/Mortars,
& Special Effects
Room 109, DFS

Monday July 10, 2000 10 a.m.
Fire Extinguishers
Auditorium, DFS

Tuesday July 11, 2000 10 a.m.
Blasting (Explosives)
Room 109, DFS

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses for people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. ♦

Fire Prevention Week

The Department of Fire Services would like to know what you are planning for Fire Prevention Week. Here is what we are working on:

Papa Gino's Open Houses

Papa Gino's will again be sponsoring open houses at fire stations. Open houses are one-third public relations, one-third public education and one-third good fun. They can be a great opportunity to have the community come inside the fire station and learn about the many services the "fire department" performs. It is also a great chance to make the community a little safer by teaching fire safety. Papa Gino's has been a great promoter of fire safety education by providing pizzas as an added incentive for the public to come to the fire station and by providing fire safety education during October in their own restaurants.

Young Heroes Event at the State House

We are in the process of organizing a Young Heroes event at the State House during Fire Prevention Week. The State Fire Marshal would like to recognize all the youngsters that have made us so proud since the last Young Hero's event at the State House in December, 1996.

Arson Watch Reward Poster Contest Winners Displayed

We are working to have a display of the winning posters from the Mass. FAIR Plan's Arson Watch Reward Program contest during Fire Prevention Week. Every year, the winning posters are on the cover of the State Fire Marshal's annual MFIRS report as well as in a calendar.

Supermarket Bags

State Fire Marshal Coan will be writing to the marketing directors of the major supermarket chains in Massachusetts, asking them to print a

fire safety message on their bags during the entire month of October. Fire Prevention Week kicks off the month of October, which closes with the *Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery* campaign.

Cape Cod Mall Event is Back!

The Cape and Islands fire departments are back organizing the largest ever Fire Prevention Weekend at the Cape Cod Mall. Last year the mall was undergoing major renovations, so the event had to be scaled back. If other fire departments or groups of fire departments are organizing mall events to promote fire safety, please let us know. The State Fire Marshal is interested in supporting as many fire prevention week (or month) events as possible. ♦

The DFS Quarterly is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us

The DFS Quarterly is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community.

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

SAVE THE DATE!

2000 Massachusetts Fire and Life Safety Education Conference



*Recipes
for Success*

Monday, September 25, 2000
and
Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center
219 Littleton Road
Westford, Massachusetts

Department of Fire Services
Stephen D. Coan, State Fire Marshal
Call (978) 567-3380 for registration info



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